

needed to pass legislation this year. While immigration reform is making its way through Congress, we ask that the young people currently detained at the border be released from detention and allowed back into the United States. Their actions to lift up the needs of those deported should not result in detention or exclusion from the United States. In fact, their return would likely be allowed under the Senate-passed immigration bill, S. 744, which we all support.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of DREAMers and your support of comprehensive immigration reform. We urge you to release the DREAMers detained on the U.S. border in Arizona and allow them to rejoin their families. We urge you to act with all possible speed to make this happen.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,
Member of Congress.

JARED POLIS,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

July 30, 2013—rollcall vote 419: on agreeing to the Gallego Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “nay”; rollcall vote 420: on agreeing to the Young Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “nay”; rollcall vote 421: on agreeing to the Grayson Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “aye”; rollcall vote 422: on agreeing to the McClintock Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “aye”; rollcall vote 423: on agreeing to the First Hastings Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “nay”; rollcall vote 424: on agreeing to the Second Hastings Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “nay”; rollcall vote 425: on agreeing to the Third Hastings Amendment to H.R. 2610—I would have voted “nay”.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL INVESTMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Incentives for Business and Individual Investment Act, to reauthorize the federal tax incentives for investment in economically distressed areas in the District of Columbia, commonly known as the D.C. empowerment zone, and the D.C. \$5,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit, both of which expired at the end of 2011. This bill would reauthorize the tax incentives through the end of 2015, and would be retroactive for 2012 and any period in 2013 during which they remain lapsed, consistent with similar empowerment zone legislation. The empowerment zone incentives include a special capital gains rate, expanded tax-exempt bond financ-

ing, additional expensing for equipment purchases and a wage credit of up to \$3,000.

The D.C. tax incentives were due to be extended with the package of temporary tax provisions that Congress regularly extends, commonly known as “tax extenders.” However, the D.C. tax incentives, for the first time, were not included in the most recent tax extenders package, the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA or P.L. 112–240), which was approved at the beginning of the year. This omission was possible, and we believe occurred, because the D.C. empowerment zone was separately and specially created in 1997, several years after the first, similar urban empowerment zones were created.

Although the D.C. tax incentives, as well as a small number of other expiring temporary tax provisions, were not extended in ATRA, Congress, in the same bill, recognized that the benefits of incentives for investment in economically distressed communities outweighed their costs when it extended all the other empowerment zones. This same logic has particularly strong application to the D.C. tax incentives.

The Republican Party Platform first proposed the D.C. tax incentives in 1996, a year before Congress created them. Republicans, who saw D.C. as a demonstration for what tax incentives could do to revitalize a city, wanted to make the entire District of Columbia an empowerment zone. The Republican platform stated, “We endorse proposals by the congressional Republican Leadership for dramatic reductions in federal taxes . . . within the District A Republican president will make it part of a comprehensive agenda to transform the nation’s capital into a renewal community, an enterprise zone leading the way for the rest of urban America to follow.” Every Republican platform since 1996 has indicated strong support for one or more of the D.C. tax incentives.

Senate and House Republicans took the lead in the creation of the D.C. tax incentives after an unprecedented financial crisis revealed the unique peril for a city required to pay for many state-like functions. They reasoned that the tax incentives would revive and sustain the District, and where they have been applicable, they have met that test. The success of the tax incentives is a vindication of the work of the cosponsors. The D.C. tax incentives were proposed by, among others, then-Senators Trent Lott (R-MS), Connie Mack (R-FL), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Spencer Abraham (R-MI), Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT), as well as by then-Representative Amo Houghton (R-NY), and have always been embraced by both Republican and Democratic Congresses and presidents.

The wisdom of the bipartisan use of modest, targeted tax incentives has been amply and visibly demonstrated in the economic resurgence in parts of the city designated as empowerment zones, including parts of downtown Washington. Effects of the empowerment zone incentives are apparent throughout the city, but among the most visible are the Penn Quarter neighborhood, which had limited residential, commercial and retail spaces and is now a popular mixed-use neighborhood, and the vibrant area around the Verizon Center, then a virtual downtown slum but now surrounded by offices, restaurants and nightlife.

Before the business tax incentives, the city found it difficult to retain, much less attract,

businesses. However, one of the business tax incentives enabled the city government to issue more than \$155 million in tax-exempt bonds on behalf of for-profit and non-profit entities for capital projects. For example, \$15 million was issued for the construction of the International Spy Museum, which has brought the added benefit of increasing tourism.

In addition to the business tax incentives, the \$5,000 homebuyer tax credit has provided invigorating nourishment to the District’s badly starved residential tax base. This credit, which applied citywide, almost immediately reversed the city’s alarming residential decline. According to the 2010 census, the District gained population (5.2%) for the first time since the 1950 census, with much of this increase traceable to the homebuyer tax credit. Not only did the homebuyer tax credit staunch the taxpayer exodus for the first time in decades, but with the stability that the credit initiated, other individuals and families began moving to the city. The District is attracting 1,100 residents a month, but these are mostly young, unmarried people. However, the goal of growing the residential tax base by 100,000 to ensure sustainability, set by Alice Rivlin, chair of the D.C. Financial Control Board, as well as a respectable business tax base, is far from being achieved. The city’s residential tax base remains well below the Washington metropolitan region and the nation, where it trails all 50 states. In 2012, the homeownership rate in D.C. was 45%, compared to the national rate of 65.4%. D.C.’s homeownership rate was also lowest among the 75 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas and significantly lower than in the statistical area for the Washington metropolitan region, which was 66.9%. The reauthorization of the homebuyer tax credit is essential if the District is to reach the 100,000 residents the Financial Control Board said was required for the city to sustain itself.

For all of its recent economic progress, the District remains a city without a state backstop. Recognizing this anomaly, Congress passed the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, but the city continues to operate many state-like services, such as higher education, roads and bridges, and health and human services. Furthermore, the federal government continues to impose significant revenue constraints on the District in the Home Rule Act, including a tax exemption on the federal government’s use of the city’s most valuable real property, a federal limit on the height of buildings in the District and a prohibition on taxing non-resident income.

Now, the city’s low-income neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River and in Northeast are on the brink of developing economically, similar to the development experienced in other parts of the District such as NoMa and Capitol Riverfront. The new headquarters for the U.S. Coast Guard will open in August, the first in a complex of buildings Congress has authorized for the federally owned West Campus of the St. Elizabeths hospital. The tax incentives have demonstrated that they can revitalize the eastern half of the nation’s capital. Particularly after the recent recession, the business and homebuyer tax incentives are essential for these neighborhoods to see the revival that the incentives have contributed to in downtown and near-in neighborhoods. Withdrawing these incentives, particularly after they have proven effective elsewhere in city,

leaves the nation's capital with essentially half of a revival, and would be tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, are ready for residential and commercial redevelopment.

There is no reason to extend incentives to the other large empowerment zone cities but not to the nation's capital, which lacks many of the advantages of other cities. Like the health of many other cities, the District's fiscal health has improved since the tax incentives were established in 1997, but the incentives continue to be indispensable for ensuring that lower-income areas of the city are part of the city's economic progress. It would be tragic to single out the nation's capital as the only empowerment zone city not to be renewed just as the eastern sections of the city are about to take off. As essential as the federal incentives have been, their costs have been de minimis compared to the billions of dollars in construction, new local revenue and new taxpayers the incentives have generated. They deserve to be extended.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL CIGAR BOX FESTIVAL

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the York Emporium as it hosts its fourth annual Pennsylvania Cigar Box Guitar Festival in York Pennsylvania.

The cigar box guitar is a traditional American instrument, with roots funning through the Civil War, the Great Depression, and the Panic of 1983. It harkens back to a time when folks would make-do with musical instruments they had constructed with their own hands, using found objects.

The annual Pennsylvania Cigar Box Guitar Festival, now in its 4th year, celebrates this homegrown musical style and the ingenuity of its musicians with the largest music festival of its kind. It features performers from Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, upstate New York and Pennsylvania. The festival brings tourists from throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states. In recent years, the festival has even seen the arrival of international visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues in recognizing the uniquely American attributes that this festival celebrates.

HONORING JAMES K. BAKER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary accomplishments of one of my constituents, James K. Baker of Columbus, Indiana.

James Baker became president and chief executive officer of Arvin Industries in 1981 and served until his retirement in 1998. During James' stewardship of the company, Arvin Industries was noted for its aggressive pursuit

and success in building a globalized sales and supply infrastructure as the auto industry diversified globally in the 1980s.

In addition to building a Fortune 500 company, James served from 1990–1991 as the chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was a former chairman of the DePauw University Board of Trustees, his alma mater, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the 2003 Indiana Government Efficiency Commission. James was a strong advocate of education reform efforts and higher educational standards as a means of building and sustaining a global and competitive workforce in our communities across the State. I know Jim was particularly proud of his involvement as a Member of the Board of Trustees with the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, an Indianapolis charter school.

James Baker was my friend and an inspiration to people across the Hoosier State. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to keep his wife, Beverly, in your thoughts and prayers as we celebrate the life of James Baker.

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF SERVICE: PEGGY LYNCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS OF SAINT PAUL AND RAMSEY COUNTY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the inspiring career of Ms. Peggy Lynch, a leader in preservation of parks and green space, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director from Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

The Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County has its origins in a group of citizens who banded together to protect Hidden Falls—Crosby Lake Regional Park in 1984 from developers proposing to build housing within the park. After the housing proposal was defeated, the group continued to meet, and a permanent organization was established in 1985 with a grant from the Saint Paul Foundation. Peggy Lynch co-founded the organization and served as Executive Director for the next 28 years. Today, because of Peggy's extraordinary persistence and advocacy for the outdoors, the organization has led development and preservation of parks across the east metro region and earned her the title the "Conscience of the Parks."

Thanks to Peggy Lynch's vision, the organization achieved foundational work to protect public access to green space. In 1985 the group initiated a study of parks in Saint Paul and Ramsey County during a period of intense developer interest in prime park land. At the time, there were few local park commissions and developers had no obligation to contribute to the park system. Cities such as Saint Paul sold parkland for a dollar per parcel. As a result of a study by the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, Park Commissions in Saint Paul and Ramsey County were established. The amendment of the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County charters for "no net loss" of parkland were approved. These actions built a system to preserve and add parkland for public use.

Additionally, Peggy and Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County have helped develop and support the environment by promoting appreciation for parks and open space through quality parks, trails, and bikeways. Through educational, community, and corporate outreach programs, they have provided access to recreational opportunities to communities who otherwise may not have the opportunity to experience it.

Peggy's influence brought increased recognition and elevated the importance of preserving the great outdoors for present and future generations to come. Her work along with the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County are legacies that will live on in the organization's work advocating for the environment in the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Ms. Peggy Lynch, a leader in the environmental community, I am pleased to submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of her retirement as Executive Director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF DR. REED BELL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's Dr. Reed Bell, who passed away on July 28, 2013. Dr. Bell's mission was to better the lives of children, and still today, his name is synonymous with pediatric health. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of this talented, kind-hearted man.

Dr. Bell was born on December 24, 1926 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Growing up, he attended Pensacola High School, where he was a model scholar-athlete. He was the captain of both the football and basketball teams, elected king of the high school's coronation, and graduated as Salutatorian. Dr. Bell then took his athletic talents to the University of Florida, where he was awarded a football scholarship. However, shortly thereafter, he answered the call of his Nation by serving in World War II. When he returned home, Dr. Bell opted to attend the University of the South, where he further applied his natural leadership abilities by again captaining both the basketball and football teams.

Despite his athletic successes, Dr. Bell was destined to serve his community through his knowledge of medicine and his love of children. He graduated from Duke's College of Medicine in 1953 and performed his residency in pediatrics and fellowship in endocrinology at Baylor University in 1957. Returning to his native Pensacola, Dr. Bell began practicing as a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric endocrinologist. In 1969, however, Dr. Bell founded the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, the only facility of its kind in the area. To support this great endeavor, founded at the hospital where he himself was born over forty years prior, he served as the Medical Director, formed a pediatric residency program, and established a neonatal intensive care unit to better serve the children of our community. In a